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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/854,336	05/11/2001	Colin Hendrick	64482	7643

7590 03/25/2004

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EXAMINER

TRAIL, ALLYSON NEEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/854,336

Applicant(s)

HENDRICK, COLIN

Examiner

Allyson N Trail

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed December 15, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13-18, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Craig et al (6,260,111).

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claim 1:

"In another embodiment of the present invention, user information is supplied to a network computer by storing user specific information on an access card which includes a processor and storage. The information stored on the access card may only be accessed through the processor of the access card so as to provide secure data on the access card. The access card may then be provided to a network computer and

accessed to obtain user specific information independent of the network connections of the network computer. Thus, user specific information is provided which may be transported via the access card independent of the network which is available to the network computer.” (Col. 4, lines 9-20).

“In particular embodiments of the present invention, the access card is a smart card and the user specific information is encrypted user specific information.” (Col. 4, lines 21-23).

“The present invention also provides a network computer having a central processing unit and memory operatively associated with the central processing unit. A network interface operatively associated with the central processing unit and an access card compatible with an access card port are also included in the network computer. The access card includes an access card central processing unit and access card memory operatively associated with the access card central processing unit. An access card port operatively associated with the central processing unit receives the access card and allows for communication with the access card central processing unit. A power management controller, operatively associated with the access card port and responsive to the access card, controls the power state of the network computer.” (Col. 4, lines 32-46).

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claim 11:

See Craig et al’s teaching in regards to claim 1. (paragraph 3). Additionally, Craig et al teaches that,

"This invention relates to computer systems, methods and program products, and more particularly to personal computer and network computer systems, methods and program products." (Col. 1, lines 7-10).

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claims 3 and 13:

"In another embodiment of the present invention, the user specific information is a user identification. The user identification stored on the access card may be validated and access to the network computer by the user allowed if the user identification is valid." (Col. 4, lines 27-31).

"The network computer may also validate user identification stored on the access card and allow access to the network computer, by the user if it is determined that the user identification is valid." (Col. 4, lines 56-59).

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claims 4 and 14:

"The user information obtained from the smart card, which may include decryption keys used for accessing smart card data via the smart card's processor, a personal identification number (PIN) and/or password and a user logon identifier name, may then be verified to determine if a valid user is using the network computer (block 304) and if not, then the power management unit 218 would return the network computer to the minimum power state thus preventing access to the network computer by the unauthorized user." (Col. 7, lines 13-22).

See Craig et al's teachings above. Craig et al specifically discloses managing digital rights specific to the using wherein the digital rights include access rights information and usage information.

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claims 6 and 16:

See Craig et al's teachings above. Specifically paragraph 4.

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claims 7 and 17:

"The network computer may also include permanent storage such as Read Only Memory, which may store a URL identifier to identify the server with which the computer works. The permanent storage may also include a base key which is used for security purposes." (Col. 2, lines 31-35).

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claim 8 and 18:

"User activity may be tracked or monitored, including transitions between and time spent in power modes, to establish power management preferences for a user on the network. The network computer may be activated and deactivated by the detected presence or absence of the access card or smart card, so that the access card may act as an intelligent "power on" for the network computer." (Abstract, lines 22-29).

Craig et al teaches the following in regards to claim 28:

See Craig et al's teachings above.

"In still another embodiment of the present invention, user activity may be tracked to establish power management preferences for a user. The established power management preferences may then be stored on the access card. The user specific information which may be stored on the access card may include power management activity monitoring enable, power management "screen-saver" mode enablement and timeout values, power management "suspend" mode enablement and timeout values, power management power-saving aggressiveness preference, power management

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energy level warning levels, power management battery charging preference, and power management aggressiveness tuning factors.” (Col. 3 and 4, lines 63-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Craig et al (6,260,111) in view of Srinivasan (6,460,076).

Regarding claims 2 and 12, the system and method for managing digital rights over a network as set forth in claims 1 and 11 respectively, wherein the digital content includes at least one of e-books, e-magazines, e-newsletters, software games, digital music, and digital video is disclosed.

Craig et al's teachings are discussed above. Craig et al fails to teach the digital rights being in the form of one of the following: e-books, e-magazines, e-newsletters, software games, digital music, and digital video.

Srinivasan teaches the following in regards to claims 2 and 12:

“An apparatus and method provides for the downloading and recording of data files over a data network such as the world wide web. A server connected to the world wide web includes a data base which includes a number of different data files such as music, video, and software that it wishes to sell to its customers. A web page is

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provided on the server for customers to access and view the products that are for sale. A system for billing the customers is also incorporated into the server such that when a system user logs in there is either a confirmation that the user has an account with the service provider or credit card information is provided in which charges may be made against. Through use of the web browser, the system user makes selections and begins the download of information into a memory in the user interface. Connected to the user interface is a recorder for recording the information upon a portable media such as an optical disk. Once the information is downloaded over the data network into the memory, the plugin in the web browser decompresses and unencrypts the file and begins the transfer process to the media recorder. Upon completion of the recording, (a) confirmation message is sent to the server (b) system user is billed for the download. After the billing process is complete, the plugin will delete the file from the computer memory and unlock the portable media so that the system user may play this information on another device." (Abstract).

In view of Srinivasan, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to in addition of having the access card for accessing accounts on a network taught by Craig et al, the access card also allow the user to have access to other types of digital including music, video, etc. Downloading digital data is common in the art. One would be motivated to combine Craig et al's teachings with the teachings of Srinivasan in order to make the access card more versatile. By allowing the access card to also have access to and store digital data

such as music or video, the user has more versatility with that card and more information can be stored on it.

6. Claims 9, 10, 19, 20, 21, and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Craig et al (6,260,111) in view of Risafi et al (6,473,500).

Craig et al's teachings are discussed above, which include all of the limitations of claim 21 except, Craig et al fails to teach having an account balance and updating the balance of the user.

In addition to claim 21, claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 also contain the limitation of an account balance and updating the balance.

Risafi et al teaches the following in regards to claims 9, 10, 19, 20, and 21, and 23-26.

"The method for using the prepaid card includes purchasing a card issued by an issuer, perhaps through an agent at a retail establishment via an agent terminal, selecting a PIN, selecting the opening account balance, having the card activated at the point of purchase, and, over time, using the card to purchase goods and/or services. The PIN and the card number are transmitted over a communications network to the card processing center to be stored in an account file associated with that card number. Also transmitted and stored in the account file is the amount of value purchased. The balance remaining on the card after a purchase or purchases are made will be kept in the account file. Unlike currently available cards which are activated by the card issuer at the time of issuance or in bulk by the merchant at the time of receipt or by the cardholder by calling a designated telephone number after purchase, the card according

to the present invention is activated on an individual basis when the card user purchases the card, making the card more secure prior to purchase. In addition, unlike card -issuer-activate cards, the card user herein is not limited to purchasing monetary value in denominations preset by the card issuer. Once activated, the card user can immediately use the card to make purchases or cash withdrawals, and the card user can replenish the value on the card at any appropriate terminal connected to the processing center. Also, unlike card -issuer-activated cards whose PINs are assigned by the issuer and are thereafter unchangeable, the method of the present invention does not require the cardholder to accept the issuer-assigned PIN, allows the cardholder to select a PIN, and allows a cardholder to change that PIN at any time after the initial selection.” (Col. 4, lines 16-47).

For claims 23-27, see Craig et al’s teachings in regards to claims 3-5 and 7 above.

In view of Risafi et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to in addition of the access card accessing accounts on a network taught by Craig et al, also include an account balance on the card and the ability to update the user’s account balance through the network. One would be motivated to combine Craig et al’s teachings with the teachings of Risafi et al in order to make the access card more versatile. By allowing the access card also access and carry a user account, one would be able to purchase items over the network and add to the balance in order to continue purchasing once the balance has depleted.

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Additionally, purchasing items with a smart card that keeps a balance and is able to update that balance is well known in the art.

7. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Craig et al (6,260,111) in view of Risafi et al (6,473,500) and in further view of Srinivasan (6,460,076).

Craig et al and Risafi et al's teachings are discussed above.

Craig et al in combination with Risafi et al fails to teach the digital rights being in the form of one of the following: e-books, e-magazines, e-newsletters, software games, digital music, and digital video.

See Srinivasan's teaching above in regards to claims 2 and 12 and the reasons to combine.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed December 15, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Examiner believes Craig et al teaches all of the limitations of claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13-18, and 28. The smart card or access card taught by Craig et al includes user information, including network preferences (digital rights), which are supplied to the network. The smart card communicates with the central processing unit, which then communicates to the network. The smart card must contain an application program, which operates in conjunction with a universal language for creating and controlling digital rights if the card is to communicate with the CPU. Additionally, it is believed that it would be obvious to combine the above references with the teachings of Craig et al.

Although Craig et al teaches a smart card that designates user network preferences, the network preferences are not specifically taught to include those in the dependent claims of the current application. The additional references simply disclose other digital rights that can be chosen to be maintained by a user. Storing the additional digital rights preferences listed by the other references would only improve Craig et al's access card to store more user specific information.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

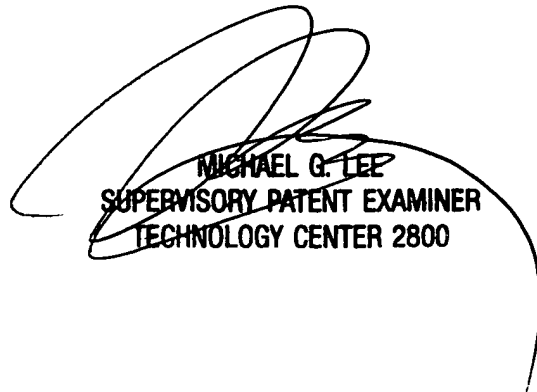
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.trail@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
March 19, 2004



MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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